

Amendments to the Claims: This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application

Listing of Claims

1 1. (Currently Amended) A device for mobile use as a readily
2 portable device for intermittent compression of human extremities for assisting
3 the return of body fluid in the direction of the heart, said device comprising a cuff
4 adapted for application to an extremity for stimulating venous flow to the blood
5 and a miniature pressure generator for intermittent pressurization of the cuff,
6 wherein said miniature pressure generator is secured directly to the cuff or
7 secured to the body or secured to clothing and pressurizes said cuff with an
8 overpressure, compared to atmospheric pressure, in a range between 20 mm Hg
9 and 100 mm Hg, wherein said cuff has, in the direction of return, a width of at
10 most 25 centimeters and is configured as a single-chamber system.

1 2. (Previously Presented) The device as set forth in claim 1,
2 wherein said cuff corresponds to a cuff as used for blood pressure measurements.

1 3. (Previously Presented) The device as set forth in claim 1,
2 wherein said pressure generator is a roller pump.

1 4. (Previously Presented) The device as set forth in claim 1
2 further comprising a pressure control means, which connects a cuff chamber
3 defined by said cuff to the atmosphere when a pressure therein exceeds a
4 predefined overpressure, compared to atmospheric pressure.

1 5. (Previously Presented) The device as set forth in claim 4,
2 wherein said pressure control means comprises an outlet valve forming an
3 overpressure outlet for said cuff, said overpressure outlet being open, except
4 when said pressure generator pressurizes said cuff.

1 6. (Previously Presented) The device as set forth in claim 4,
2 wherein said pressure control means comprises a restrictor in a conduit between
3 said pressure generator and said cuff, and an outlet valve with a stopper, which,
4 in a first position, releases an outlet to the atmosphere, and, in a second position,

5 blocks said outlet, said stopper assuming these positions as a function of the
6 difference in pressure between an inlet and an outlet of said restrictor.

1 7. (Previously Presented) The device as set forth in claim 1
2 further comprising a controller which switches said pressure generator ON/OFF,
3 thereby pressurizing said cuff with a defined or definable pressure amplitude and
4 a defined or definable repetition frequency.

1 8. (Previously Presented) The device as set forth in claim 7,
2 wherein said controller is designed to vary at least one of said pressure amplitude
3 and said repetition frequency.

1 9. (Previously Presented) The device as set forth in claim 1,
2 wherein the overpressure of said cuff, compared to atmospheric pressure, ranges
3 between 25 mm Hg and 80 mm Hg.

1 10. (Previously Presented) The device as set forth in claim 1,
2 wherein said cuff is pressurized 1 to 10 times per minute.

1 11. (Previously Presented) The device as set forth in claim 1,
2 wherein, said cuff is pressurized 1 to 15 times per 5 minutes.

1 12. (Previously Presented) The device as set forth in claim 1
2 further comprising means for uncoupling said pressure generator from said cuff.

1 13. (Previously Presented) A method of stimulating the flow of
2 body fluid comprising a cuff to be applied to an extremity, and a miniature
3 pressure generator for intermittent pressurization of said cuff, wherein said
4 miniature pressure generator is secured directly to the cuff or secured to the body
5 or secured to clothing and pressurizes said cuff with an overpressure, compared
6 to atmospheric pressure, in a range between 20 mm Hg and 100 mm Hg, said
7 cuff comprising, in the direction of return of body fluid in the direction of the
8 heart, a width of maximally 25 centimeters, and being configured as a single-
9 chamber system, as a readily transportable device for intermittent compression of
10 human extremities for assisting the return of body fluids.

1 14. (Currently Amended) A method for stimulating the flow of
2 body fluid comprising the steps of:

3 applying a cuff to an extremity, wherein said cuff has a width of at
4 most 25 centimeters and is configured as a single-chamber system; and

5 intermittently pressurizing said cuff by a miniature pressure
6 generator, wherein the steps of applying said cuff to an extremity and
7 intermittently pressurizing said cuff stimulates the return of venous blood flow
8 and wherein said miniature pressure generator is secured directly to the cuff or
9 secured to the body or secured to clothing and pressurizes said cuff with an
10 overpressure, compared to atmospheric pressure, in a range between 20 mm Hg
11 and 100 mm Hg.

1 15. (Previously Presented) The method as set forth in claim 14,
2 wherein the step of intermittently pressurizing said cuff comprises a controller
3 actuating a pressure generator to pressurize said cuff with a defined or definable
4 pressure amplitude and a defined or definable repetition frequency.

1 16. (Previously Presented) The method as set forth in claim 15,
2 wherein said controller varies at least one of said pressure amplitude and said
3 repetition frequency.

1 17. (Previously Presented) The method as set forth in claim 14,
2 wherein the step of intermittently pressurizing said cuff comprises pressurizing
3 said cuff 1 to 10 times per minute.

1 18. (Currently Amended) The ~~device~~method as set forth in
2 claim 14, wherein the step of intermittently pressurizing said cuff comprises
3 pressurizing said cuff 1 to 15 times per 5 minutes.

1 19. (Withdrawn) A device for mobile use as a readily portable
2 device for intermittent compression of human extremities for assisting the return
3 of body fluid in the direction of the heart, said device comprising a cuff to be
4 applied to an extremity, a miniature pressure generator for intermittent

5 pressurization of the cuff, wherein said miniature pressure generator is secured
6 directly to the cuff or secured to the body or secured to clothing, and a pressure
7 control means, which connects a cuff chamber defined by said cuff to the
8 atmosphere when the pressure in said cuff chamber exceeds a predefined
9 overpressure, wherein said cuff has, in the direction of return, a width of at most
10 25 centimeters and is configured as a single-chamber system.

1 20. (Previously Presented) The device as set forth in claim 1,
2 wherein said miniature pressure generator is secured directly to the cuff.

1 21. (Previously Presented) The device as set forth in claim 1,
2 wherein said miniature pressure generator is secured to a suitable location on the
3 clothing.

1 22. (Previously Presented) The device as set forth in claim 1,
2 wherein said miniature pressure generator is secured to a suitable location on the
3 body.

1 23. (Previously Presented) The device as set forth in claim 20
2 further comprising a velcro fastener for directly securing said miniature pressure
3 generator to the cuff.

1 24. (Previously Presented) The device as set forth in claim 20,
2 wherein said miniature pressure generator is accommodated in a pouch on the
3 outside of the cuff.

1 25. (Previously Presented) The device as set forth in claim 21
2 further comprising an elastic band with a velcro fastener for securing said
3 miniature pressure generator to the clothing.

1 26. (Previously Presented) The device as set forth in claim 22
2 further comprising an elastic band with a velcro fastener for securing said
3 miniature pressure generator to the body.

1 27. (Previously Presented) The device as set forth in claim 9,
2 wherein the overpressure of said cuff, compared to atmospheric pressure, ranges
3 between 40 mm Hg and 60 mm Hg.

1 28. (New) The device as set forth in claim 1, wherein the
2 overpressure is 60 mm Hg.

1 29. (New) The method as set forth in claim 14, wherein the
2 overpressure is 60 mm Hg.

1 30. (New) The method as set forth in claim 14, wherein the
2 extremity is the calf muscle of a lower leg.
